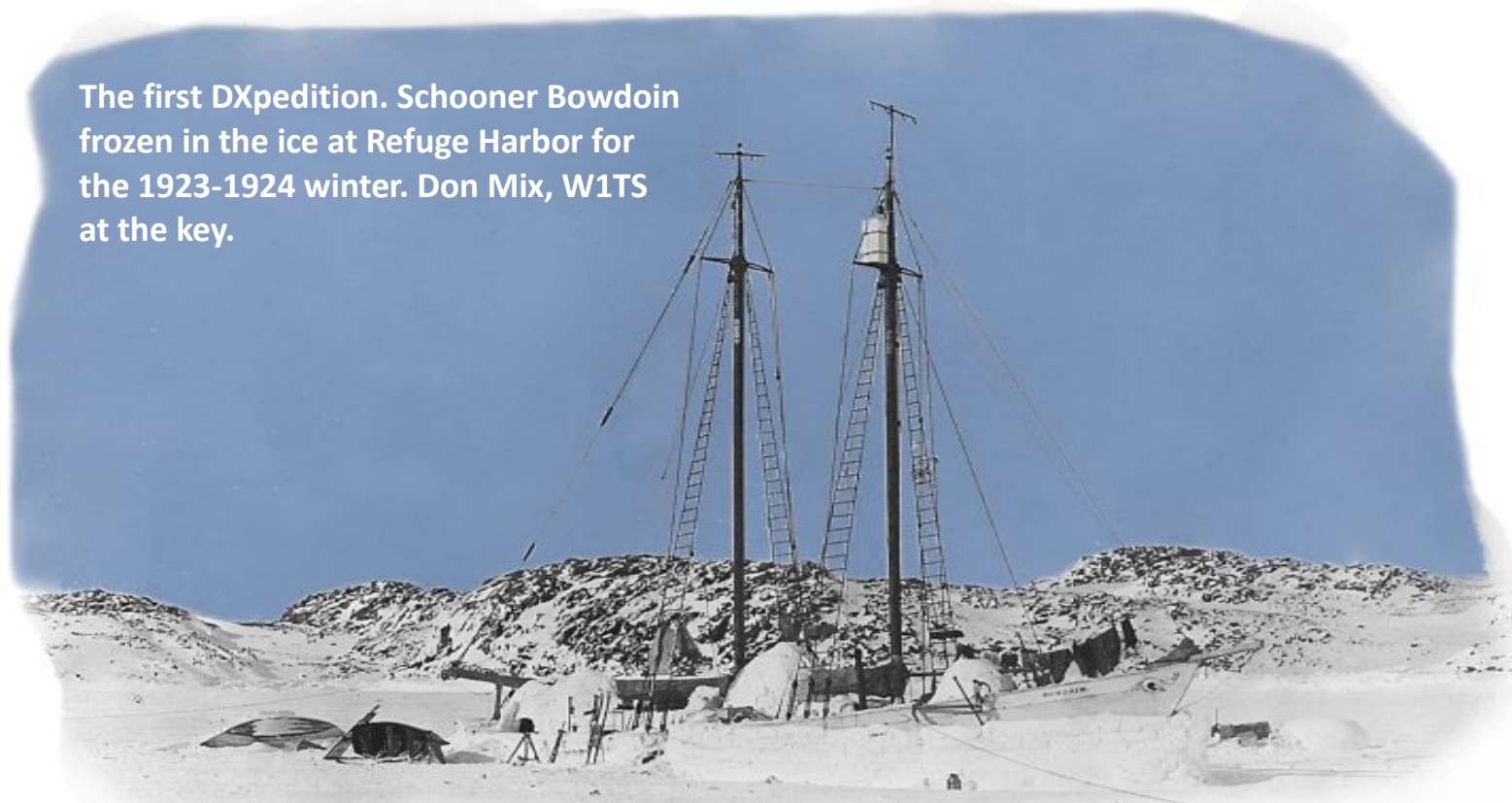


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

February 2015



The first DXpedition. Schooner Bowdoin frozen in the ice at Refuge Harbor for the 1923-1924 winter. Don Mix, W1TS at the key.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Earl Towson, N1QI

The SUN - A User's Guide for Ham Radio

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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A Word from the Prez . . .

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



Greetings members!

I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and that you're having all the fun you can stand!

The San Diego DX Club was well represented at this year's Yuma Hamfest. The weather couldn't have been nicer and the show was over before the winds picked up on Sunday afternoon. There was a real good turnout and most all of the elected Southern California ARRL folks were there. It was great to see so many friends from near and far!

The February meeting will be at The Sizzler. This month's presentation will be by Earl Towson, N1QI. "The SUN - A User's Guide for Ham Radio"

Earl is a retired Aerospace Engineer with a lifelong interest in astronomy. Since retiring he now supports SDSU's Astronomy Department as a guest lecturer for Astrobiology and Planetary Sciences. In addition, he is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. He will discuss how the sun works and how Hams can use its interactions with the earth to forecast radio propagation. Please join us for an evening of fun, food and camaraderie!

The propagation of Cycle 24 seems to be holding up helping many get ATNO's with the K1N Navassa Island and TI9/3Z9DX Coco Island DXPeditions. I hope that conditions were in good shape for those that stayed home to operate in the ARRL International DX CW Contest. Here's a link with some of the latest news on the current solar cycle: <http://vencoreweather.com/2015/02/17/29475/>

There are plenty of operations on this month, so check out Bill Feidt's, NG3K, website to see what operations are on or coming soon. <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

If you were part of the ARRL Centennial QSO Party that Glenn, K6NA, orchestrated: He needs a list of operators if you had visiting ops at your listed station. Please contact him directly with any information.

The 66th International DX Convention - April 17-19, 2015 - is open for general registration and early banquet seating is available. There are already over 300 DXers that have registered! Here's some links for the latest news <http://dxconvention.com/pages/news.html> - <http://dxconvention.com/pdf/2015-IDXC-PPT.ppt> - <http://dxconvention.com/pdf/2015-IDXC-Flyer.pdf>

Here is a link to YouTube where the K1N group has placed a number of videos about their operation: <http://goo.gl/sys1e5>

The CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest is the coming weekend: 2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1

Concludes on Page 3

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



San Diego DX Club – February 2015

Secretary's Report

The January 28th meeting was conducted by Wild Bill – WB6BFG. He introduced the guest speaker, Gordon Shackelford – AE6QW, and welcomed guests Bob Barrie – K1ROA, Bo Kordel – N7BK, Ulla Kordel – K7AFB and Elaine Richards – KA1UCC (XYL of member Ron – WA1EAZ).

Old Business - John – NA6L gave a recap of the Holiday Party and reiterated what a good value it was for Club members. Many thanks again to John & Denise for their efforts.

New Business – Bill - W6RGS announced that he finally achieved DXCC on LoTW last month. As he has paid dues and attended several meetings, John – NA6L nominated him for Regular Membership (with Gayle – K6GO seconding the motion) and the members in attendance voted to accept his application. Howard – KY6LA inquired about the option of electronic payment via PayPal and the possibility of payment for multiple years. The Board was asked to further research the subject. The topic of individual DXpeditions soliciting donations from the Club was briefly discussed and will ultimately remain a Board decision. Mike – NA6MB announced that he has also achieved DXCC and was also voted into Regular Member status. Wayne – NN6R announced that George Pugsley – W6ZZ recently became a Silent Key 11/15, 2014. Members were reminded to turn in their totals to John – K6AM for the Ladder. Forms are available on the Club website at <http://www.sddxc.org/dxsubmissions.html> A Roundtable discussion followed: Ernie - W4EG announced that he's moving to Florida.

Ellen, N6UWW

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance: 1/30/2015 \$6520.89

Deposit

1/20 \$100 2015 dues payments (JO, JRF, VNR, XB, YA)

2/13 \$870 2015 dues payments (AM, AQ, BH, BK, BN, 6CW, 7CW, DEX, EG, ERD, EZJ, FKB, GAK, HDG, HLW, JBR, JHD, JL, JOJ, NN6K, WN6K, KI, KIM, L, LA, MY, NA, NBU, NG, NI, NNI, NO, OA, PEG, RGS, RR, VCM, VS, WST, XG, N6XT, YXI, Z, ZH, ZJ, ZO)

Dues were due December 31. Dues are \$20 annually (\$30 for family memberships) and became delinquent January 31. Reminder e-mails were sent January 16. Many thanks to those members who have already paid. (AR, EAZ, GO, IHV, JAC, KH, MB, MHZ, MUF, R, VM, YI, YOO, BFG & UWW) If your suffix is not listed here, please send your dues!

Dues checks can be sent (payable to San Diego DX Club Inc) to:

Ellen Utschig

2104 Poplar Rd

Oceanside, CA 92058-2332

Thanks to everyone that has sent in their dues. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so before the "Wall of Shame" list gets put together.

Please remember that the club's newsletter is only as good as the information the editor receives, so please take the time to submit any DX related stories, tall tales, and musings of a madman or crazy lady for his consideration. Let's help Bob, K9RHY, start off with a bang.

K9RHY@ARRL.NET

73 & 88's to the pretty ones!

Wild Bill, WB6BFG

"To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk." Thomas Edison

**THE SDDXC TOP 10****By John, K6AM****TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10 METERS****TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40 METERS**

2/15 2/14 CALLZNS C-D CFM WKD CHG

1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	340	-1
2.	2.	NØRR	40	328	328	338	+6
3.	3.	K6AM	40	319	326	327	-
4.	4.	N6CW	40	?	297	325	+3
5.	5.	W6YI	40	305	211	320	+5
6.	6.	K6XT	40	269	273	303	+3
7.	8.	KØXB	40	282	287	296	+4
8.	7.	W6YOO	40	289	295	295	-
9.	9.	N7CW	40	258	258	284	-
10.	10	K6ZH	40	262	268	282	+4

2/15 2/14 CALLZNS C-D CFM WKD CHG

1.	1.	W6YA	40	337	348	348	+1
2.	2.	K6XT	40	332	342	345	+2
3.	3.	NØRR	40	332	344	344	+2
4.	4.	K6AM	40	327	333	336	+1
5.	7.	W6YI	40	323	327	332	+4
6.	6.	N6CW	40	?	302	332	+3
7.	5.	N7CW	40	320	320	329	-
8.	8.	K6ZH	39	288	293	303	+7
9.	9.	WN6K	40	226	231	271	+5
10.	-	W6VNR		?	252	252	NEW

Both ten and forty meters continue to be quite productive yielding a bunch of new ones for almost everyone. Some very nice jumps in score come from our most active players. Our February champ, Jim, W6YA holds on handily to the top spot on both 10 and 40. He should be able to keep both for several more years.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2014

There are quite a few members who are candidates for this award including last year's honorable mentions AE6BH, AK6ZZ, NA6L and K6JHD as well as our 2013 winner, KJ6YXI plus all you newcomers who have never posted a score. If you would like to be considered, you all need to send me your total of all time new ones worked in 2014. Send to k6am at arrl dot.net ASAP.

SDDXC RESULTS
2014 ARRL DX CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
SO HP	ZF35A (K6AM)	5,396,238	5,213	349	#3 World
SA LP	WN6K	419,196	752	193	#2 SW Div
SO 40	N7CW	78,684	334	79	#3 SW Div
SA HP	N6NC	23,769	147	57	
SO LP	WA2OOB	4,860	54	30	

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY

I hope you enjoy February's
SDDXC Cover Story titled:
Ham Radio's First (Solo)
DXpedition



Bob, K9RHY

Ham Radio's First (Solo) DXpedition: Refuge Harbor, Greenland, WNP

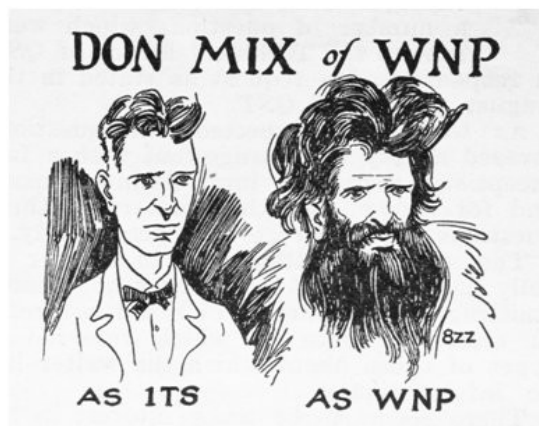
Imagine that you're a 21-year-old ham living at home with your parents in Bristol, CT. You're thinking about a career in radio. Like all hams in 1923, you're a self-taught radio "Wiz" who can build or troubleshoot a "detector and two step" or a state-of-the-art superheterodyne receiver. You're equally comfortable with the traditional spark gaps but more in favor of the new continuous wave (CW) transmitters (with vacuum tubes!). Your CW skills are excellent, and you're a top operator. As a longtime major contributor to the

Calls Heard section in *QST*, you are well known as an active League member. Among your many accomplishments, you have earned the distinction of having copied the most West Coast stations of any other amateur in New England. You go to the mailbox one morning and find an invitation from Hiram Percy Maxim, founder of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) - fondly known to all as "The Old Man" (TOM) - to apply for the position of radio operator on an expedition to the North Pole. You'd be leaving in the spring for a trip that will last over a year. Your time will be spent on the 88-foot Schooner Bowdoin (named after Bowdoin College, the alma mater of the expedition leader). As member of a seven-man crew, your primary duty is to maintain contact with the outside world via ham radio. Like you, all crew members have primary duties, but will share in the work associated with the trip. When underway you will be standing watches, cleaning the ship and helping in the galley. Once the final location has been reached you will help hunt, fish, find fresh water and bring it on board. You will help clean and prepare any fish or wild game for storage or for dinner. And when the Eskimo dogs arrive, you will help feed and take care of them.

But you do have the chance to be the operator from first "DXpedition" in ham history and you would be the first DXpeditioner—ever—even though that word isn't a "word" - yet.

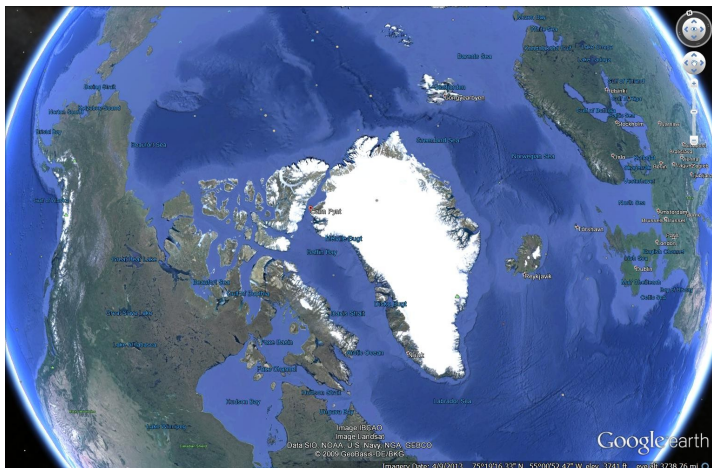


Would you accept the offer knowing that much about the Arctic was a great mystery at the time and the risk of disappearing forever was great? You knew only too well that many explorers never came back and were never found.



Your father and brother, Mit, were both hams, so you can imagine the advice they gave. So for Don Mix, W1TS (1TS at the time) the answer was simple: Yes!

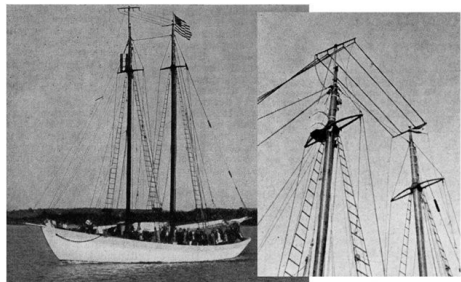
Don found out it was a 15-month expedition to the Arctic with an Explorer named Donald MacMillan. MacMillan wanted to take a ham radio operator with him, and asked The Old Man to help him find a good one. Donald MacMillan had a lot of experience in the Arctic, having first gone with Peary in 1909 when he discovered the North Pole. MacMillan insisted on a personal interview with Don to insure he would fit in with the crew and the expedition. Don passed the interview, and was accepted immediately.



The Bowdoin set sail on 23 June, 1923, for her 14-month voyage. TOM was present to see the expedition off at its dock in Wiscasset, Maine. Bowdoin carried two thousand gallons of fuel, giving it the longest range under power of any sailing vessel in the world—about one thousand miles. Bowdoin planned to navigate a course north along the western shore of Greenland and across Baffin Bay to anchor at Flagler Bay in late August, but ended up in Refuge Harbor near Cairn Pynt, just a short distance (less than 30 miles) from the original destination. There they would spend the next nine months frozen in the arctic winter ice. (Operating from a vessel would not typically count as a DXCC counter, but since the operation took place more than 20 years before the end of WWII when the new DXCC rules were released and since the vessel was absolutely and solidly locked in the ice, and since the antenna would eventually be affixed to solid ground, I think it would be a “counter”.)

At 79° north latitude, the location was about 540 miles northeast of the magnetic pole, and 700 miles from the geographic pole. MacMillan had chosen this spot to support his scientific mission to study geomagnetic effects and local wildlife. If all went as planned, the following summer thaw would permit their return by September 1924. Prior to WNP, no ham operation had ever taken place from a location this far north.

WNP was equipped with a Zenith model 1-R receiver covering short waves from 150 to 850 meters, and a long wave set for receiving naval stations NAA and NSS. Its transmitter was a two-tube circuit, running 100 watts, designed to tune into antennas that were shorter than normal, and limited by the size of the ship.



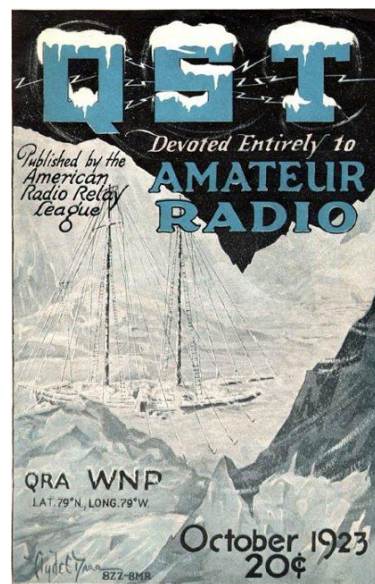
WNP's station was designed by M. B. West, 9BA, well known before the war (WWI) as 8AEZ. West had resigned his civilian job with the Navy to join the Chicago Radio Lab that had recently been renamed Zenith (now owned by LG Electronics, a Korean company). He visited the *Bowdoin* at its dock in Southport, Maine, to take measurements. The equipment was then hand-assembled by West and other amateurs at

Zenith (the company founded by R. H. G. Mathews whose call sign was 9ZN. The name "Zenith" was inspired by ZN'th, a contraction of 9ZN). The Zenith plant was located at 48th Street and Kedzie Avenue on the Southwest side of Chicago, just blocks from your humble editor's first station (KN9RHY). Although other polar expeditions had carried radio equipment, none had yet succeeded in using it effectively. This time would be different.

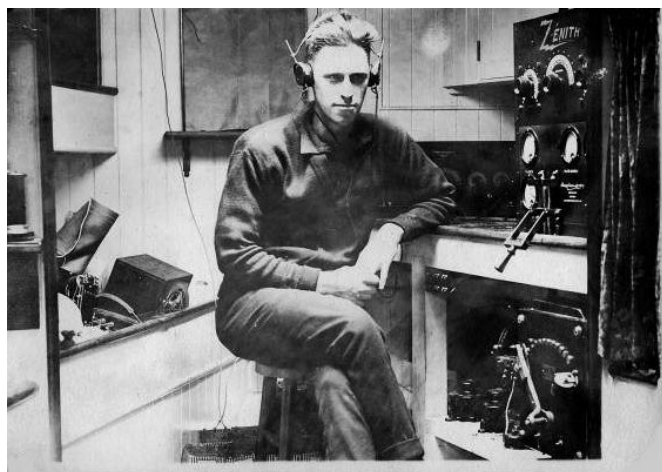
To stay in contact with WNP, one of the early Zenith executives, Eugene McDonald, built one of Chicago's earliest radio stations, WJAZ (now WGN) which proved to be very successful and led to Zenith's emergence as an industry and market leader in high-end radio sets.

Operating from WNP

By mid-November 1923 the *Bowdoin* was frozen in place at temperatures well below zero degrees Fahrenheit. The sun had disappeared in late October. Winter conditions are perfect for the low bands where the WNP operation took place. WNP was now being copied mostly by West Coast stations with only a few elsewhere and none on the East Coast.



Mix strung new antenna wires from the ship's mast to some nearby hills, a relief from the confines of the ship's dimensions, which had limited the antenna's length. At this point he was getting news directly from six amateur stations plus European commercial stations POZ and GBL, and reported hearing music from a station in Glasgow, the only European broadcaster that he could identify.



As the winter progressed he began to hear many more North American broadcasters. The crew was especially surprised one night to "hear CFCN call out 'Hello WNP somewhere in the Arctic. Hope you are getting this.'"

With improving on-air conditions during November, twenty operators worked WNP in fifty-one QSOs. It was the best traffic month of the expedition according to Mix. A new two-way distance record was set in a 15-minute QSO between WNP and R. Smith, 6CEU, of Hilo, Hawaii, who was transmitting with three 5-watt tubes. Mix wrote that he nearly fainted when he heard Smith answer his CQ. They continued to work each other right through the winter.

Having kept detailed logs and traffic count by the word, Mix later reported that he had transmitted more than 16,000 total words.

A Note on Don Mix

Our heroic DXpeditioner, Don Mix, W1TS, continued on with the technical side of the hobby and eventually became a technical editor with the ARRL. As an ARRL HQ employee, he wrote occasionally for QST including an excellent and lengthy technical article titled "Operating the 807" in May, 1946. We who remember World War II equipment (even remotely) will definitely remember that tube.

Your editor's all-time favorite W1TS QST article was titled "Ivory Tower Confessions" in which he wrote about DXing with a dipole. (July 1959 QST).

Don read books to the blind at a local public library. He retired as a technical editor at ARRL and became a silent key at age 71 in 1973.

Subsequent DXpeditions and DXpeditioners

There is a lot of great material available for a DX bulletin editor to write about. This short narrative proved that to me. Rather than give short shrift to the rich history of DXpeditioning, I plan to treat some notable DXpeditions to a full K9RHY treatment at a later date.

But to put Don Mix's trail-blazing exploits into perspective there are three other single-operator DXpeditioners who clearly stand out as Masters of the Universe:

Other Single-Op DXpeditions					
Callsign	DXCC Entity	Year	Days	QSOs	QSOs/Day
VP6BR	Pitcairn Island	2000	88	56,239	639
9L1AB	Sierra Leone	2002	36	40,362	1,121
HC8MD, HC8VHF	Galapagos Islands	1981	31	35,000	1,129
ZK2V	Niue	2011	59	34,199	580



Dear Nobu-san,

The San Diego Contest Club thanks you for sponsoring the most beautiful plaque we received today for winning the North America Category of the 2013 JIDX SSB Contest.

Every year the SDCC honors the memory of Hiroshi "Hiro" Kuroda (SK) by using the special callsign "W6H". Hiro would visit San Diego every year and operate enthusiastically with the SDCC.

Thanks you for your generosity for providing the plaque.

73, Dennis Vernacchia N6KI

Trustee for NX6T - San Diego Contest Club

The Trek to Yuma

After waking up way too early Saturday morning to leave Oceanside well before dawn, we arrived at the Yuma Fairgrounds as the starting bell of the 2015 Yuma Hamfest sounded. We raced in to find where Andre K6AH was giving his Broadband Hamnet presentation. The \$5 admission to the Yuma Hamfest was well worth it as when we entered the Theater Building to find a Who's Who of friends and acquaintances we don't get a chance to see nearly often enough. In addition to the various seminars held throughout the day, there was plenty of stuff to occupy one's time. While some headed off to the nearby swapmeet, others stayed in the thick of things at the Hamfest and enjoyed a full day of spur of the minute antenna projects, t-hunting, vendor booths, tailgating, etc. Sources tell me there was even an impromptu ukulele concert complete with appetizers! Here's hoping those of you who attended all had a great time.

73 ~ 88's

Ellen, N6UWW

